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LETTER DATED 3 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea dated 27 May 1998 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) LI Hyong Chol
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Statement by the Spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 27 May 1998

Japan's current legislative arrangements related to the "Japan-U.S. Defence Cooperation Guidelines" seeking its overseas expansion under the manipulation of the United States have been arousing deep concern and indignation within and without.

As was already reported, the Japanese Government discussed bills some time ago for the implementation of the final report on the new "guidelines" at a cabinet meeting and submitted them to the Diet. They are "Bill on emergency areas surrounding Japan", "Amendment to the Law on Japanese Self-Defence Forces (SDF)" and "Amendment to the agreement on supply of materials and manpower between Japan and the United States".

The bills submitted by Japan to the Diet put not only the Korean Peninsula and Taiwan, but also extensive areas of Asia and the West Pacific region, within the scope of "emergency in areas surrounding Japan", which has drawn a widespread discussion in Japan.

The facts show again that Japan has chosen the Korean Peninsula as the first target of its overseas aggression and has invariably sought to dominate the whole of Asia by military force with the Korean Peninsula as a springboard, pursuing its unchanged ambition for aggression.

In the bills, Japan indefinitely expands the sphere of logistic support of the "SDF" and the scope of supplies for the United States military operations and codifies the right to dispatch warships and warplanes overseas and allow the "SDF" to use weapons outside Japan under the pretext of "rescuing Japanese". This means that Japan has provided legal conditions for expanding the scope of military operations of the "SDF" and allowing its participation in United States military action.

If these bills are passed through the Diet, they will legalize overseas troop dispatch of the "SDF" and its military action.

It is not incidental at all that the recent game of passing bills related to the "Japan-U.S. Defence Cooperation Guidelines" in Japan coincides with the racket of extorting its sinful past and extolling ultra nationalism and expansionism.

Some time ago, a film praising as "hero" Tojo Hideki, the infamous head criminal of the Second World War in Japan, was manufactured and shown openly, despite strong protest from within and without. Here lies, in fact, the ulterior intention of the Japanese authorities to embellish the past history of aggression and to create an atmosphere to justify their militaristic policy.

All facts clearly testify that the extremely dangerous and reckless attempts of the Japanese reactionaries to create a powerful military state have already entered a full-scale drive at execution stage.

These brazen-faced manoeuvres of Japan now arouse the unanimous condemnation and indignation of the Asian people, including the Korean people, and invite strong denunciation by the world's people.

We will never remain a passive onlooker to the war preparations which the Japanese rulers have accelerated against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, persistently pursuing a hostile policy towards Korea.

The present reality is eloquent testimony to the justness and far-sighted wisdom of the idea of attaching importance to the military affairs and self-defensive military line of our Party, which has strengthened the country's national defence power in an all-round way and consolidated it into impregnable one.

If Japan encroaches upon our sovereignty even a little bit with the backing of the United States, it can never retrieve itself from defeat. The reactionary rulers of Japan must give up the anachronistic design of overseas military expansion and act with prudence.